

So far, we have been considering the mechanism by which man and the higher animals maintain a connection with their environment. It includes Instinctive (reflex) and Ideo-motor systems which, when started by the touch of an Impression, act promptly and accurately, and are not Interfered with by the functioning of the brain. It also includes a system which, connected with the brain, is swept by a number of conflicting influences. As we descend the scale of animal life, the direct-Ing authority of instinct spreads from the internal functioning of the body to its external behaviour. Conduct is linked more closely to primary sensations, and there is a narrower field for the exercise of choice. An impulse that is set free by a sensory impression is so directed by instinct as to energize a definite series of actions, often of a very elaborate character, which are accurately performed without previous experience. The marvellous regularity and complexity of this directive force is typically illustrated by the life history of insects. A worker bee, immediately it emerges from the pupal stage and sees its surroundings, sets itself to a complicated process of working in wax, with what seems to be practised dexterity and trained intelligence. It is born an efficient mechanic, just as our hearts and lungs are, from the moment of birth, capable of exercising their functions. Birds' nests illustrate very familiarly the posses-

sion of similar inborn skill In higher
orders of the
animal kingdom. We are probably
correct in
assuming that the functioning of the
internal
organs of the body, the growth of the
body and
the development of the embryo are all
guided by
this process of instinctive direction.

We are profoundly ignorant of the
nature of this
wonderful directive force. Its
impulses do not